

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

May 22, 2001

LB 851

2nd Congressional district. Madison and Gage counties remain in the 1st Congressional district. York and Saline counties are moved to the 3rd Congressional district. Cedar County is divided between the 2nd and the 3rd Congressional district. I'd like to briefly talk about population deviations and the law that applies to population deviations because there's been a great deal of discussion throughout redistricting. I think there's some confusion which is understandable because the law is not always clear. There is one point, however, that I don't believe anyone can or will deny and I want to emphasize it. A plan with zero population deviation does not need to be justified legally because there is no deviation to justify. Therefore, from the standpoint purely of federal constitutional law, which is not the only consideration, but it's a very important consideration with regard to a congressional plan, a zero deviation plan is always better than a plan with a deviation. I've endeavored in the maps which I've drawn as a part of the redistricting process to always come as close to...or to come in with absolute zero deviations and AM2096 is an absolute zero deviation plan. With regard to Sarpy County, there were several points of contention. The cities of Bellevue and Papillion wanted to stay together and the Bellevue and Papillion-LaVista school districts wanted to stay together. Bellevue wanted Offutt Air Force Base in the same district. Sarpy County officials wanted the landfall of a proposed bridge across the Missouri River to remain in the 2nd Congressional district. Those of us from Omaha viewed residents of the Chalco suburbs and the Millard School District as fellow Omahans who belonged in the 2nd Congressional district. Not all of these interests could be accommodated so a compromise was required. The plan moves approximately 2,500 residents of Chalco suburbs Omaha to the 1st Congressional district. All but one small portion of the greater Papillion area is retained in the 2nd Congressional district and all of Bellevue and the bridge landfall remain in the 2nd Congressional district. Let's talk about the western boundary. The debate over the boundary between the 1st and the 3rd was most difficult. There were generally four points of contention. Certain members of the body wanted to retain Madison and York counties in the 1st. Others preferred them in the 3rd. Certain members of the body wanted to retain Gage and Saline counties in the 1st. Others